

In the Specification:

Amend the paragraph at page 4, lines numbered 13 to 17 to read as follows:

The present application teaches an improvement to a stopping criterion presented in commonly-owned U.S. provisional application number 60/179,055, filed January 31, 2000 _____, which has the same effective filing date as the present application, and which also has overlapping inventorship with the present application, and which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

Amend the paragraph at page 12, lines numbered 6 to 10 to read as follows:

A stopping criterion has been developed for turbo decoding that measures the SNR of the extrinsics and compares the result to a threshold. If the threshold is reached, no further iterations are executed. This stopping criterion is disclosed in the commonly owned U.S. provisional application number 60/179,055 # _____, referenced above.